

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete paragraph [0007] and insert therefor the following amended paragraph:

**[0007]** The pump distribution plate of the present invention generally comprises a linear plate that is sized for positioning near the bottom of a sump pit, well or tank. The pump distribution plate may preferably have an arrangement of ~~guides~~ guide members that extend from the bottom surface of the plate toward the floor of the sump pit, tank or well. The pump distribution plate has at least one opening formed through the plate which is sized to receive the inlet of a pump in fluid communication therewith. The guide members are arranged on the bottom surface of the pump distribution plate to define the area from which the pump can draw liquid, thereby creating increased velocities between the pump distribution plate and the floor of the pit, well or tank to facilitate entrainment of solids.